

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 11, lines 8-20, as follows:

In operation, each of the signaling gateways receive a heartbeat signal that is produced by each of the G-MSCs of the network. Accordingly, G-MSC 34, 72 and 76 each produce a heartbeat to the signaling network ring 52. Upon failure of any one of the G-MSCs 34, 72 and 76, each of the signaling gateways is operable to perform specified backup data packet routing for the signaling network. For example, we will presume that G-MSC 34 has failed to produce its heartbeat signal within a specified window and it is therefore considered “inactive”. As G-MSC 34 produces signaling messages, or data packets, containing an address of G-MSC 34 to signaling gateway 56, signaling gateway 56 will route the signaling messages, ~~using backup signaling paths 98 and 96~~ using backup signaling paths 98 and 94, to G-MSC 76 and G-MSC 72. Since G-MSC 76 and G-MSC 72 are operable as backup call servers to G-MSC 34, then signaling gateway 56 will, either by remapping the signaling messages to the designated backup call servers, or by adding new header address information to the signaling messages, route the signaling messages to the corresponding backup call server.